



## Quarterly Quips

### Division of Inspection Services

By: Fiona L. Mattson

## Future Agriculture Ambassador Recruitment and Mentorship

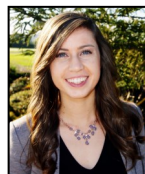
The Division of Inspection Services Future Agriculture Ambassador Recruitment and Mentorship (FAARM) program recognizes the 2016 interns:



"My name is Kristin Fernandez, and I am currently a senior at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, studying Agricultural and Environmental Plant

Sciences, concentrating in Fruit and Crop Science. I just recently completed my first year at Cal Poly after transferring from Sacramento City College, where I

represented my college as a student ambassador. In my first year, I began volunteering at Cal Poly's Strawberry Center, and with a graduate student researching flowering and fruiting habits of pomegranates. I am looking forward to my senior year in the fall, when I begin courses in Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Viticulture."



"Hello, my name is Hannah Garrett and I just recently graduated from California State University, Chico with

a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Education. Instead of student teaching in the fall, I was fortunate enough to be hired on as a teacher intern at Chico High School as their new Agriculture Teacher. So come August, I will be teaching high school students the ins and outs of plant science, floriculture, and agriculture economics. But until then, I am grateful to be spending my summer with CDFA."

## Passing of a Member of Inspection Services

The Inspection and Compliance Branch lost a beloved member on June 12, 2016. Kathie Yniguez started with the Department in the late 1980s as a seasonal pear inspector and became a permanent Fruit and Vegetable Quality Control Inspector in 1999 working out of the West Sacramento Shipping Point Inspection (SPI) office. During that time Kathie was a valuable member of TEAM, an SPI ad-hoc

committee made up of inspectors and supervisors that worked collaboratively to improve services. In 2012, Kathie was promoted to Supervisor and took over the Avocado Inspection Program in Escondido where she finished her career. Kathie always had a smile on her face and a very infectious laugh that once heard, you never forgot it. She was surrounded by family and loved ones as she battled

cancer until the end. She will be dearly missed.



## Director of Inspection Services

The Director of Inspection Services, Rick Jensen, retired July 6, 2016. Rick dedicated 41 years of State Service to the Division of Inspection Services beginning as a fruit and vegetable inspector and climbing the ranks to the Branch Chief of Inspection and Compliance and finally, the Director of the Division.

The Division of Inspection Services (ISD) wishes him nothing but a fulfilling retirement with plenty of time spent on the

golf course! **Thank you for all your hard work and dedication Rick!**

In lieu of Rick's retirement, Natalie Krout-Greenberg has accepted the position of Director for ISD. Natalie has been with ISD since 2005 and has served in



various program roles, most recently as Special Assistant since 2010. She graduated from the University of California, Davis and has extensive hands-on agricultural experience working on farms and ranches, as well as in veterinary medicine and laboratory environments. ISD is looking forward to her continued leadership as Director!

## Keeping Up with Shipping Point!

Cherry season has wrapped up! It started out great; however, mid-season storms and hail caused a lot of damage and affected grading.

Final preparations and training took place for the start of table

grape and almond season. Crop predictions indicate that this should be a very good year for both commodities, provided that the weather and water don't become an issue.



### Welcome Our New Staff to the Division of Inspection Services!

**Dinesh Chand** - CAC  
**Margaret Cornell** - MCCR  
**Josh Davila** - FFLDRS  
**Lubna Durrani** - FFLDRS  
**Addison Ford** - F2F  
**Tomi Jimenez** - F2F  
**Lindsey Rains** - MCCR

### The Division of Inspection Services recognizes with gratitude these Staff Members who have recently retired:

**John Harriger** - CAC  
**Charles "Pat" Hattic** - I&C  
**Rick S. Jensen** - Administration

## Updates from the Fertilizer Research and Education Program!

### Five New Crops added to the Fertilizer Guidelines

The Crop Fertilization Guidelines on the Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) website now include recommendations for potatoes, dry beans, avocados, and cotton (onions coming soon). These guidelines currently provide fertilization information for 21 crops covering over 60% of irrigated agriculture across California, and the list continues to grow. View all the guidelines at: [www.cdffa.ca.gov/go/frepguide](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/go/frepguide).

Additionally, FREP has published nitrogen management brochures for ten crops based on the Fertilization Guidelines. The

newest additions include wheat, grape, corn and citrus. These guidelines can be found at: <https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/frep/Resources.html>.

### Grower training update

Through the FREP grower training program, growers learn key aspects of nitrogen management in farms. The training also includes how to complete nitrogen management plans as required by Central Valley water quality regulations. Growers may self-certify their own nitrogen management plans if they participate in this CDFA training program and pass the exam. Over 30 training sessions have been held across

the Central Valley. Of the 1,878 growers participated, 82% have successfully passed the certification exams.

### Have you checked out the FREP Blog?

FREP has launched a blog to reach out to stakeholders on topics and issues that are technical in nature and target specific audiences. The blog launched in December and includes a number of entries summarizing current FREP events and materials relevant to agricultural stakeholders across California. Feel free to engage and subscribe at <http://blogs.cdffa.ca.gov/frep/>.

## Department of Food and Agriculture Career Fair

The latest analysis of State employee age demographics reveals that about 40% of our State workforce is eligible to retire in the next five years, with over 20% of the workforce eligible to retire this year. Baby Boomers, many of them senior employees with deep experience, are leaving the CDFA and state service in large numbers, creating a loss of institutional knowledge that, without careful planning, could have a profound impact on operations. The Career Fair is a key strategy to let the public know CDFA's role to promote and protect a safe and healthy food supply, attract new employees, and plan for the future.

On May 18, 2016, CDFA hosted its first career fair with approximately 200 people in attendance throughout the day. The event consisted of three parts: a workshop designed to teach attendees how to navigate the [CalCareer website](http://CalCareer website) to submit online and exam applications, program-specific listening sessions given by each division to learn more about what CDFA does, and informational booths set to network with division employees about potential careers at CDFA.



## Updates from the Office of Farm to Fork!

This year's budget, signed by the Governor on June 27, 2016, included a \$5 million budget allocation for a statewide Nutrition Incentive program. The budget allocation follows last year's bill, Assembly Bill 1321, which established a new program, California Nutrition Incentives, within the Office of Farm to Fork. This new program will provide matching dollars for CalFresh and WIC participants using their benefits to purchase California grown produce and nuts at Certified Farmers' Markets. Nutrition incentives are a triple win – they help support California farmers, stimulate the local economy, and support the health of low-income consumers.

The Office just wrapped up three farm tours in Northern, Central, and Southern California to increase awareness of local specialty crop availability and to increase farm sales to consumers and institutions. All of the tours had different

areas of emphasis, but one of the most rewarding was the Southern California tour. Over 60 high school students from San Diego Unified School District Career Technical Education (CTE) Culinary Arts program had the opportunity to visit a



local farm. There, the students learned about the crops they grow, harvested some vegetables in the field, and cooked a communal meal at Wild Willow Farm and Educational Center outside of San

Diego. This tour was such a success that the Office is planning on working more with CTE Culinary Arts programs throughout California to introduce a younger generation to the importance of specialty crop farming.

The Office also added a new member to the team, Addison Ford. Addison acts as the main point of contact for the California Farmer Marketplace, communicating directly with farmers, food service directors, and the general public. Addison is a registered dietitian and holds a Master of Public Health and a Master of Nutritional Biology from the University of California, Davis.

We are all excited about the changes taking place and are looking forward to what the next few months will bring!

## State Organic Program Updates!

As previously announced in the April 2016 newsletter, CDFA was convening a series of Organic Stakeholder Working Group meetings. The purpose of these working

group meetings was to review the program and provide recommendations to the Department on how to maximize the effectiveness and responsiveness of

the SOP and the industry needs. The working group meetings, which have now concluded, were a great success. A final report of recommendations will be issued in August.

## The Medical Cannabis Cultivation Program is Growing!

Since March 2016, the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Program (MCCP) has added four permanent staff members and expects to expand to 30 employees by the end of 2017.

MCCP has been tasked with licensing commercial cultivators, establishing regulations for indoor and outdoor cultivation, establishing a track and trace program for reporting the movement of

medical cannabis through the distribution chain and assisting other state agencies and local authorities in protecting public health and safety and the environment.

MCCP has begun the environmental review and regulatory processes that will include soliciting public comment by hosting public workshops across California in early fall.

Currently, MCCP is in the early stages of developing the regulations that will define the licensing and cultivation requirements. MCCP anticipates that the first applications for licenses will be accepted beginning January 1, 2018.

For more information on the program, please visit the MCCP website at: <https://www.cdca.ca.gov/is/mccp>.

## State Scientist Day!

The staff from Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) participated in State Scientist Day at the State Capitol on May 18, 2016. Each year, thousands of students from area grade schools come to the Capitol for a field trip to participate in hands-on displays showcasing the work of state scientists. This event helps to encourage students to pursue future careers in the field of science. The CAC staff had displays

this year teaching about the amount of sugar found in common beverages, the Periodic Table, the marvels of dry ice, how to make elephant toothpaste, and the popular, but messy lesson on how to make your own homemade Gak.



## About the New Cubes

With the new programs for Inspections Services starting in the new fiscal year (FSMA food safety audits and SB 27 antimicrobial), comes new staff, and of course, where to put them. Inspection

Services' space at Gateway Oaks has reached capacity! There are no empty offices or cubes to put new staff. To remedy this, four new cubes are being built—three in the mail room, and one by

the back patio door. The mail room will be relocated to Room 117. Also, additional work stations are being built for field staff so they have a workspace when they visit Sacramento.

## Farm to Fork Demonstration Garden

The Farm to Fork Demonstration Garden is in full-swing for the summer of 2016! This would not have been possible without the generous donations from Inspection Services staff!

Materials were donated by staff to build a drip irrigation system in the garden. This is an excellent opportunity for staff members

to engage in the garden and learn how to build a drip irrigation system for their own gardens!

There is also plenty to enjoy in the garden from herbs and tomatoes, to strawberries and green beans. Look out for e-mails inviting Inspection Services staff out to grab some fresh fruits and vegetables. In

the mean time, do not hesitate to get some herbs from the garden at any point, they are plentiful!

Be on the look out for an announcement about our harvest party this fall!

